

KAUR control still in doubt

By **LORI A. FORMAN**

Student government editor

Last month the ASA council voted unanimously to put the college radio station under direct control of the ASA. The impact of that resolution could result in ASA and its committees choosing radio personnel and setting the KAUR budget. But action on the resolution has been stalled until two questions are answered: Who requested the change? and is the approved change legal?

KAUR-FM certainly did not ask to be put under control of the ASA. According to station manager, Lee Axdahl, he knew nothing of the resolution until it had already been approved by the council at its Mar. 5 meeting. "The first I heard about it," said Axdahl, "was that night, at the MIRROR office, *after* the meeting."

Discussion by the council when considering the proposal indicated that "the administration" was requesting a change regarding who controls KAUR.

In an interview with the MIRROR, President Balcer said the question of KAUR control "started with a concern I had in relationship to the fiscal responsibility of KAUR due to the fact that funding is from a specially assessed student fee, yet it is a line item in my college operating budget." Balcer said he asked then ASA President Dave Jarratt to look at the situation and make a recommendation. "I had no intention of changing any other aspect of the station," Balcer added.

Dr. Balcer continued: "Somehow in communication, it

got misinterpreted into a wholesale revamping of the organization (KAUR), which was not my intention." He also suggested there may be some legal problems with the FCC if the approved resolution is carried through.

In order to determine the legality of the ASA proposal and to receive a response from KAUR, Balcer has placed a moratorium on any action until he has heard from the KAUR advisory board.

Axdahl says the advisory board will turn in a proposal this week which will be "a resolution to counter the ASA resolution." He said his proposal will include putting two or three more students on KAUR's advisory board, but he did not elaborate any further.

Balcer emphasized that he has "no real problems with the way the station is run." His main concern is who will have jurisdiction over the budget. He plans to have the issue settled by September.

Balcer indicated he may have personal doubts about certain expenditures, but said investigation of KAUR's expenses is up to the students since it is funded from a student fee. Balcer added that "as long as the student council authorized that fee, they can withdraw that fee" if it so desired.

Axdahl responded, "We've got to promote ourselves" when asked about expenditures such as T-shirts, pop-up calendars, athletic schedules and the like.

"In terms of equipment expenses," he continued, "we're setting the station up for future possibilities. We're growing at KAUR — and it's such a good

PR tool for the college."

KAUR received local attention last month when the Sioux Falls *Argus-Leader* ran an article on the radio station in its Mar. 24 issue. In addition to discussing the programming and staffing at KAUR, the *Argus-Leader* article explored the funding of KAUR: "Axdahl wants the station to be less dependent of student funds and more a part of the Sioux Falls community. Toward that end, the station will hold a fund-raising campaign next year, seeking to supplement its student supported budget with donations to cover about half of the station's annual costs."

The MIRROR asked Dr. Balcer about the feasibility of a KAUR campaign while the college is conducting its "New Frontiers" campaign. "No way . . . there's no way the college is going to authorize a separate fund drive," he said.

Axdahl had his reactions, too, claiming he was misquoted: "What I told Fine (*Argus-Leader* staff writer) was that I would like to look into the possibility of having a fund drive. But I'm just not that naive." He emphasized that any plans for a fund drive, if there ever were any, no longer exist.

Funding for KAUR will continue to come solely from the student fee, assessed this year at \$10 but returning to \$5 next year.

KAUR is planning to request an increase from the ASA, but not the full \$10 amount. Said Axdahl, "We might have been able to go on a \$5 fee if we could have had a fund drive, but for now we have to depend on the students."